

10,000 gardens in Africa project

Mulching



Why carry out mulching?

Mulching is a technique by which the soil is covered with a layer of material. The beneficial effects of mulching are numerous: it combats weeds, keeps the soil moist, protects it from erosion, avoids the formation of surface crust due to soil hardening, reduces atmospheric phenomena effects that may cause soil compaction, maintains structure and helps to raise the temperature of the soil.

How is mulching carried out?



A variety of natural materials can be used for mulching, amongst which shredded bark, straw, dry leaves, mowed grass, shredded pine bark.

Artificial materials can also be used such as cardboard, plastic film and bio cloth. Good mulching often avoids having to aerate the soil before the next sowing.

Mulching is a good technique which keeps weeds under control.

Do not forget: it isn't always necessary to remove everything growing around the plants in the garden, just eliminate the ones most likely to compete with, or even smother the vegetables that you are interested in. Leave those that produce flowers, as they attract beneficial insects. If you decide to let the weeds grow because you think they won't be of too much trouble, be careful not to let them disperse the seeds, collect them before, in this way you will prevent their abundant dissemination.



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